



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Nordine CHEIKH *et al.*

Appln. No.: 09/976,054

Filed: October 15, 2001

For: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with the Cytokinin Pathway

Confirmation No.: 3580

Art Unit: 1647

Examiner: M.P. Allen

Atty. Docket: 16517.256

Amendment and Response

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

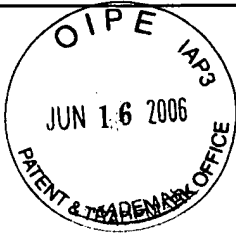
In response to the Final Office Action dated March 16, 2006 ("Final Action"),

Applicants submit the following amendment and remarks.

Amendments to Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.

ARNOLD & PORTER LLP



June 16, 2006

Thomas E. Holsten
Thomas.Holsten@aporter.com

202.942.5085
202.942.5999 Fax

555 Twelfth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1206

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Conf. No. 3580
Art Unit: 1647
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Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/976,054 filed October 15, 2001
Inventors: Nordine CHEIKH *et al.*
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated
with the Cytokinin Pathway
Atty. Docket: 16517.256

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Response; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier.

In the event that extensions of time beyond those petitioned for herewith are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing docket number 16517.256. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Christian Lundberg #53,183
for Thomas E. Holsten (Reg. No. 46,098)
David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)

Enclosures